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To Cure or not to Cure and AIDS?

AIDS or acquired immune deficiency syndrome is one of the world’s most devastating diseases. It has been ranked as the fourth most deadly disease by The Science Channel. According to Amfar 1.7 million people died in 2011 due to this deadly threat. It spreads like wild fire and burns through its victims as it rages through not just poverty stricken countries but our own country as well. What is this killer? How is it passed and should we really be finding a cure or not?

In order to understand the "why", or "why" not of curing AIDS we must understand the "what" and "how" behind the deadly killer. HIV is the base virus that produces AIDS. HIV is a disease that is contracted through direct contact with infected internal body fluids. The body, when affected by HIV, has an immunity break down. The cells which hang around to fight infections and diseases are attacked and killed by the HIV virus. Normally these cells that would kill a common cold and help a person fight deadly viruses are all gone. There are no knights to protect the castle of human health. It is not the AIDS that kills, but it is the outside viruses and diseases that come into a defenseless body that destroy. AIDS is a slow killer. It can be fairly dormant until you receive an additional outside infection, against which a body is now defenseless. This is why all AIDS victims eventually die from this disease. There life becomes a ticking time bomb and the trigger can be as simple as the common flu.

We understand that this disease is ravaging many parts of the world. AIDS is most prominent in places such as Africa and India. These countries have poor education, little to no health care, culture differences, and a different set of moral values than the average American or European country. How is AIDS spread? Is AIDS a rampant disease that snatches up helpless victims like Cancer and Malaria?

AIDS is a disease that is spread in a few specific ways. The virus HIV, spread only through direct internal fluid to internal fluid contact, spreads its nasty effects through blood, semen, breast milk, and vaginal fluids. (aids.gov) The number one way by which HIV is spread is through unprotected and protected sexual contact. AIDS is prominent in drug users. Intravenous drug users share needles and other injection materials. Drug dealers and users do anything to get their fix including selling and using pre-owned syringes and other equipment. The innocent victims of HIV are the un-born children of infected mothers. HIV is often passed from mother to child in pregnancy. In very rare cases health professionals contract HIV from accidental needle sticks and other exposure. Health professionals have the benefit of having access to fast acting drugs to kill the virus before it takes hold, so true infection is rare. (US Department of Health and Human Services, hhs.gov)

Curing this disease has been a lifelong quest for thousands of scientists across the globe. There are treatments to help preserve the life of those infected, but a cure is yet to surface. No person can live a normal life with AIDS. “According to Every Day Health Magazine” the average life span after contracting HIV is only 22.5 years. Treatment is rare at best outside of the US. The question now is should we put so much time and effort into curing this disease? The answer sounds as if it should be obvious but you may be surprised.

For obvious reasons thousands are working in favor of curing AIDS. Millions of lives can be saved if there were a treatment. The 34 million people now infected in the world would have the possibility of being rescued from HIV and AIDS. The average person with HIV in the US spends over 600,000 dollars in treatment to sustain life for a time. This cost could drastically decrease if a standard cure is established. Saving lives and potentially saving money would result in the curing of AIDS. It is simple the benefits are there, but what are the hidden risks of saving the day for AIDS patients around the world? (World Health Journals)

There are other ways to stop the deaths besides trying to find a cure. Whatever happened to good old fashion education and prevention? What would happen to the world’s population if AIDS were to vanish off the face of the earth because of a miracle cure? How might this effect crime rates? How could this effect the amount of resources on the planet if people could reproduce as they want with whoever they want and not worry about the consequences? How much simpler would it be for intravenous drug users to dope up on American streets? These are the questions that raise concern when one begins to talk about curing AIDS.

According to “The World Demographic Transition” the earth has only a certain carrying capacity. Reason being there is only so much clean water at once, there is only so much farmable land, and there is only so much food to be had. The sustainable number for earth’s population has already been passed. We as humans are consuming more than fifty percent of the earth’s recourses. In other words we consume more than we grow or give back. Smaller countries with little resources are already seeing the effects of this through death and starvation. These countries also happen to be many of the same places where AIDS is ramped, like South Africa and Nigeria. According to authors at “Developing Africa” a nonprofit organization dedicated to developing wellness in Africa, there are almost 25 million people living with AIDS in Africa alone. Human life is a cycle as we know, we live, breed, and multiply exponentially as things get better. Death from starvation will always increase at an amazing rate when food supplies run low. Such death is already reaping havoc on Africa. Over 200 million people suffer from malnutrition and starvation in Africa alone. The curing of AIDS would not stop the deaths because 25 million people who would have left this life early will now live on and create a population domino effect. This leaves fewer resources for the country and the world as a whole.

Above is only one example why developing a cure for AIDS would do more harm than good for this world. Conceder the other questions I have mentioned when determining your own opinions. We must spend more time and money on education and prevention. There are many organizations that dedicate themselves to the education of youth and others on the subject of AIDS prevention. Imagine a world where all minds understood where AIDS came from. Imagine a world where all people took a good old fashion pledge against the spread of AIDS. Imagine governments that created programs, laws and policies that promoted the awareness and stop of AIDS. Imagine if it were mandatory for infected individuals to tell partners about their disease before engaging in any sexual contact. It may be uncomfortable for the poor sap to admit his or her health issues, but it is much more uncomfortable to be a victim of AIDS. Sure humans have their agency, but let us do what we can. I for one don’t bargain AIDS for starvation. I bargain for life. What about you?